



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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State invites citizens to search for 2007 Christmas tree

LANSING – Although it hasn't snowed a single flurry, the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB) and the Michigan Association of Timbermen are beginning preparations for the holiday season.

DMB Director Lisa Webb Sharpe and association members today announce their search for the state's official Christmas tree. Each year, these two groups ask individuals to nominate a spectacular evergreen. The timbermen cut the tree, load it onto a semi, and drive it to Lansing. There, DMB's Christmas Tree Crew works with the Capitol facilities team and the Hi-Ball Company of Lansing, who volunteers a crane and crew to set the tree on the Capitol lawn.

"As families travel on their Michigan summer vacations, we hope they'll be on the lookout for beautiful trees that might serve as our next state Christmas tree," said Webb Sharpe.

To be considered, tree nominees must be:

- a spruce or a fir
- at least 65 feet tall with a maximum crown of 30 feet and maximum trunk diameter of 30 inches
- easily accessible from a road and away from wires
- available at no charge

The tree is officially lighted at Lansing's Silver Bells in the City celebration, which is set for Friday evening, Nov. 16. Last year, 100,000 people attended the event, which unveiled a green spruce donated by Pat and Liz Valencia of Hancock.

Nominations are requested by July 1. Individuals who wish to nominate a tree are asked to send their name, telephone number, a high-quality photograph of the tree and information about its size and location to:

Holiday Tree Search
Michigan Department of Management and Budget
Facilities Administration, Building Operations Division
P.O. Box 30026
Lansing, MI 48909

Photographs and information may also be sent by e-mail to ChristmasTree@michigan.gov.

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